



Epiphany Sunday (Observed)

“Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday ephiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world.”

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 72

One: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

All: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

One: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

All: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

One: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

All: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

Morning Star

Prayer of Invocation

Gloria (Unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

O God, Who by the Leading of a Star

Thomas Attwood

Children's Moment

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany, the day on which, according to Matthew's Gospel, three Wise Men visited the newborn Jesus. Who were they? We don't really know. Why did they bring those particular gifts? We can speculate. What were their names? Nobody knows. What we do know is that they were so intrigued that they traveled from far away to see Jesus, and to offer him praise. They wanted to find God.

What about you? Do you want to find God? Well, here's the good news: God is already looking for you!

That's right. To God you are so important, so loveable, that He will look for you. And even if you are hard to find, He will continue to look for you. Why? Because God loves you. Really. Just like a parent, or grandparent. God loves you. Remember that. Today and every day.

Hymn 144 (p. 6)

What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright

Puer Nobis Nascitur

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 60:1-6. Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12. In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

"What Just Happened?"

Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Juanita, Terry, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Penny, Sue, and Rick.

Mysterious God, we read of the Magi, the Wise Men, who came in search of Jesus. Bless us with the kind of curiosity that drove them, the thirst for knowledge that impelled them, the desire to know you that sent them in search of the Christ child. Do not let us be so attached to place or position that we will not be moved. Do not let us be so captured by circumstance that we will not go in search of you and your grace. Free us to admit what we don't know, to accept what you have to offer, to be changed by your grace and love. Prepare us to go home by a different route, to be transformed by our encounter with you.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of Gifts

Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community.

Offertory

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johann Pachelbel

Doxology (Unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise God, all creatures here below,
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Dear God, like the Magi, we come from various places with different experiences, but we are all seeking you. Take our gifts as a sign of our interest in you, and let each of us feel deep gratitude and a commitment to serve your people, whoever, wherever they may be. In the name of our newborn king, we pray, Amen.

Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605

Johann Sebastian Bach

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Barbara Jones, Liturgist

Linda and Bob Gerlach, Ushers • Stacey Steele, Zoom Greeter

If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

Please Note: CONTENT FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Materials for FCC's 2022 Annual Report must be submitted to the Church Administrator by January 9, in order to ensure timely distribution of the report prior to our Annual Meeting.

Please note that reports should be as concise as possible, summarizing in the briefest terms only the most relevant and noteworthy items particular to your committee.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 12, 2023

Dream Big *Many Thanks for Your 2023 Stewardship Pledges*

“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (Isaiah 65:17)

Many thanks for the 27 pledges we have received for 2023! We will gratefully continue to accept pledges anytime in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support of our church!

Please either place your pledge form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by mail. Offering envelopes for 2023 (in boxed sets #1-20) are available in the Parish Hall.

126 Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.
James (John) P. Harding, ?-1911

1 Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
3 Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion;
5 Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing,

Dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
O - dors of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
Dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid!
Mak - er, and Mon - arch, and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est, or gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid! A - men.

What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright

144

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

Tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
 3 O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
 4 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, To Christ, re -

than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to announce a new - born
 shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the east - ern sa - ges
 on to seek thy face, Let not our sloth - ful hearts re -
 vealed in earth - ly night, To God the Ho - ly Ghost we

king, Glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
 stand, To read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
 raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise! A - men.

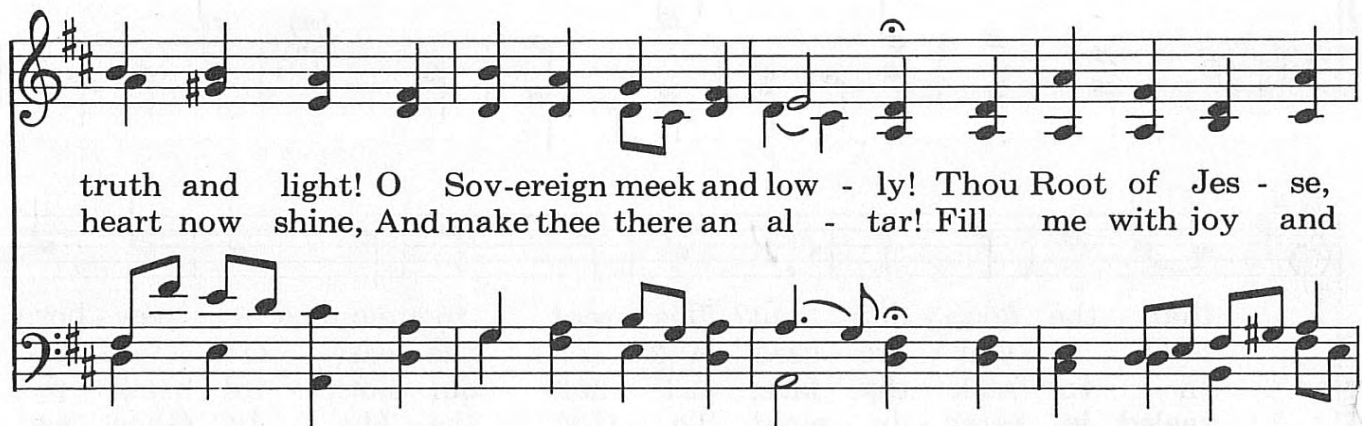
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

*Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608**Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.*

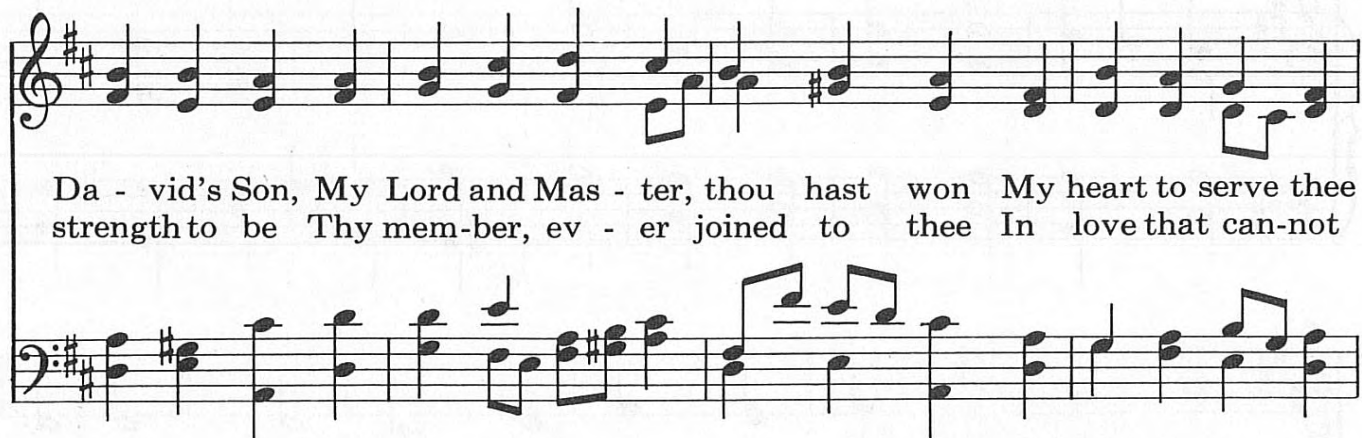
WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET 8.8.7.8.8.7.4.8.4.8.

*Melody by Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608**Harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750*

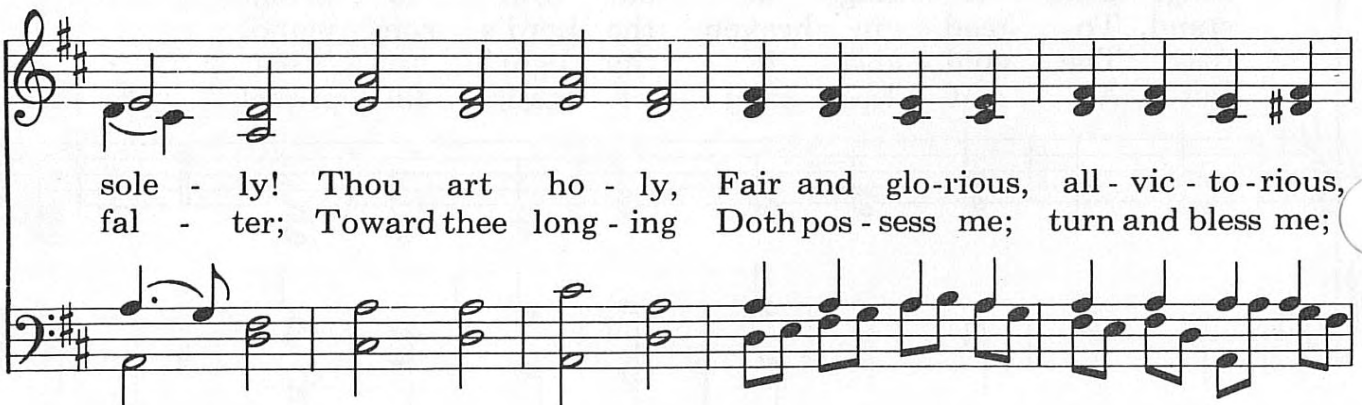

1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright Thou beam - est forth in
2 Thou heaven-ly Bright - ness! Light di - vine! O deep with - in my



truth and light! O Sov-ereign meek and low - ly! Thou Root of Jes - se,
heart now shine, And make thee there an al - tar! Fill me with joy and



Da - vid's Son, My Lord and Mas - ter, thou hast won My heart to serve thee
strength to be Thy mem-ber, ev - er joined to thee In love that can-not



sole - ly! Thou art ho - ly, Fair and glo-rious, all - vic - to - rious,
fal - ter; Toward thee long - ing Doth pos - sess me; turn and bless me;



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

A New Year of Concerts!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, January 6 and 20, February 3 and 17, all 7:30 pm
Our popular community venue for live local music! Patrons come and go as they please; baked goods and beverages available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

The Becker Sisters: Northern Legend—Saturday, January 21, at 7:00 pm
Immensely talented in voice, piano, and classical guitar, Kirsten and Alyssa Becker range from opera to jazz, Broadway classics to original compositions. Their warm, intimate concert is perfect for the dark nights of winter. *Adults \$10, under 12 free; more at www.kirstenbeckermusic.com.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: All Shall Be Well—Sunday, January 22, at 3:00 pm
Kathy Sherlock-Green leads this wonderful ensemble in a warm, comforting program of Claude Debussy, Gabriel Fauré, Benjamin Britten, Felix Mendelssohn, Philip Silvey, and more. *Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students (13+) \$5, under 13 free. Advance purchase preferred; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

Upper Valley Baroque: The Italian Concerto—Saturday, Jan. 28, 7:00 / Sunday, Jan. 29, 3:00
Led by its incomparably energetic director Filippo Ciabatti, this acclaimed professional ensemble continues its second season with a selection of intimate, elegant, and lively concerti by six different Italian composers. *Admission starts at \$25; tickets and more at www.uppervalleybaroque.org.*

Benjamin Kulp, Cello—Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 pm
The Upper Valley Music Center presents this recital by superb cellist and faculty member Ben Kulp. *Program tbd, free-will donation. More details at uvmusic.org/event/ben-kulp-solo-cello-recital.*

Classicopia: Trios by African-American Composers—Sunday, February 26, at 2:00 pm
Pianist Dan Weiser and siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances Borowsky (cello) offer a program to celebrate Black History Month. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. with Refrain
John H. Hopkins, Jr.; 1820-1891

In unison



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on high.
 Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies



REFRAIN



O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.





First Congregational Church of Lebanon

PO Box 230
10 South Park St
Lebanon NH 03766

Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fcclb.org to receive this and other communication by email.

Welcome!

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcome and included.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race or ethnicity, physical or mental ability, or economic circumstance, you are invited into the full life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, including its worship, sacraments, and rites.

Join us as we grow together in God's love.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

**Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Children's Community Corner
Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator
Brian Clancy, Church Administrator**

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)
603-448-4281 • church@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org